

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 188

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6023

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MASS, MOPS, PINT, PINS, CB, US, OREP

SUBJECT: MEETING OF STAFFDEL MOOSE AND MEISSNER WITH

ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY

1. MORNING APRIL 6 I TOOK MESSRS. MOOSE AND MEISSNER TO CALL ON ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION SAUKHAM KHOY MADE IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID IN ORDER TO GAIN TIME TO WORK OUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEMBM IF THIS AID WERE NOT FORTHCOMING, GKR WOULD HAVE TO RAISE WHITE FLAG AND KC WOULD ENTER PHNOM PENH WITH PROBABLE BLOOD BATH RESULTING.

2. SAUKHAM KHOY SAID THAT BEST FEASIBLE SOLUTION IN THE EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE FOR KHMER PEOPLE TO "INVITE" SIHANOUK TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA. IF THIS WERE DONE KC WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF PHNOM PENH AND PERMIT RELIEF SUPPLIES TO COME INTO PHNOM PENH BOTH BY AIR AND UP THE MEKONG RIVER.

3. WHEN MOOSE ASKED WHETHER KC WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A SCENARIO, SAUKHAM KHOY THOUGHT THAT PUBLIC NATURE OF SUCH AN APPEAL TO THE PRINCE TO RETURN WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR KC TO SABOTAGE.

4. SAUKHAM KHOY STRESSED THAT IF A MAJORITY OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE FAVORED SUCH A SOLUTION HE PERSONALLY WOULD BE WILLING TO STEP ASIDE IF SIHANOUK SO REQUESTED. HE WOULD ALSO OBTAIN THE DEPARTURE OF ALL OTHER PERSONALITIES UNACCEPTABLE TO
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THE PRINCE. IN REPLY TO MOOSE'S QUESTION WHETHER FANK COMMANDERS

WOULD GO ALONG WITH THIS TYPE OF SCENARIO, SAUKHAM KHOY OPINED THAT HE COULD CONVINCE MOST OF THOSE WHO COMMAND THE TROOPS, AND THOSE WHO OPPOSED SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE NEUTRALIZED.

5. THE ACTING PRESIDENT ASKED THAT HIS OFFER BE CONVEYED BY MESSRS. MOOSE AND MEISSNER TO THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AS A SIGN OF HIS SINCERITY ABOUT FINDING AN EARLY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO THE TRAGIC CONFLICT WHICH HE SAID HAS GONE ON TOO LONG. HE PLEADED FOR CONGRESS TO HELP THE GKR GAIN THE NECESSARY TIME SO THAT AN ORDERLY SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND WHICH PRESERVES SOME FREEDOMS FOR THE KHMER PEOPLE AND PREVENTS THE IMPOSITION OF A TOTALLY COMMUNIST REGIME ON CAMBODIA.

6. SAUKHAM KHOY DID NOT KNOW HOW ALL OF THIS COULD BE CONVEYED TO SIHANOUK AND THE KHMERS ON THE OTHER SIDE, BUT HE HOPED THAT THE GREAT POWERS WOULD HELP HIM, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES. HE PLEADED THAT THE UNITED STATES NOT JUST WALK AWAY FROM CAMBODIA. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CHINESE ARE CONTINUING THEIR STRONG SUPPORT TO HANOI AND THE KC, AND THAT IF THE UNITED STATES WERE TO ABANDON CAMBODIA WITHOUT A SOLUTION IT WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF ASIA.

7. MOOSE IS DRAFTING SEPARATE MESSAGE REPORTING HIS CONVERSATION TO SFRC WHICH DEPT WILL BE ASKED TO TRANSMIT ON IMMEDIATE BASIS TO ADDRESSEE.DEAN

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